

Garmin Aviation Software Engineering Internship

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STEP Faculty Mentor: Ebony Caldwell

Major: Computer Science and Engineering

1 out of 173
interns!

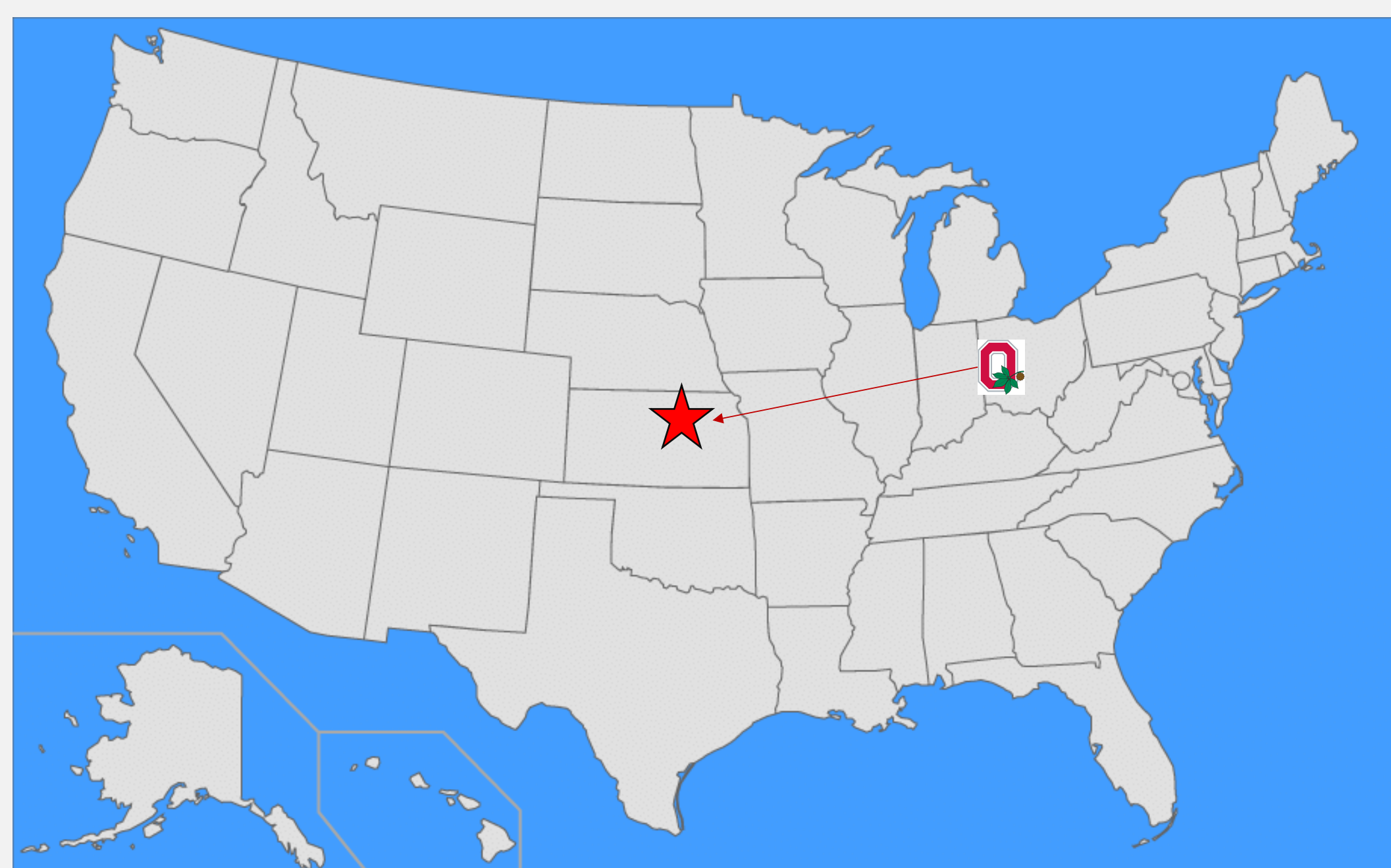
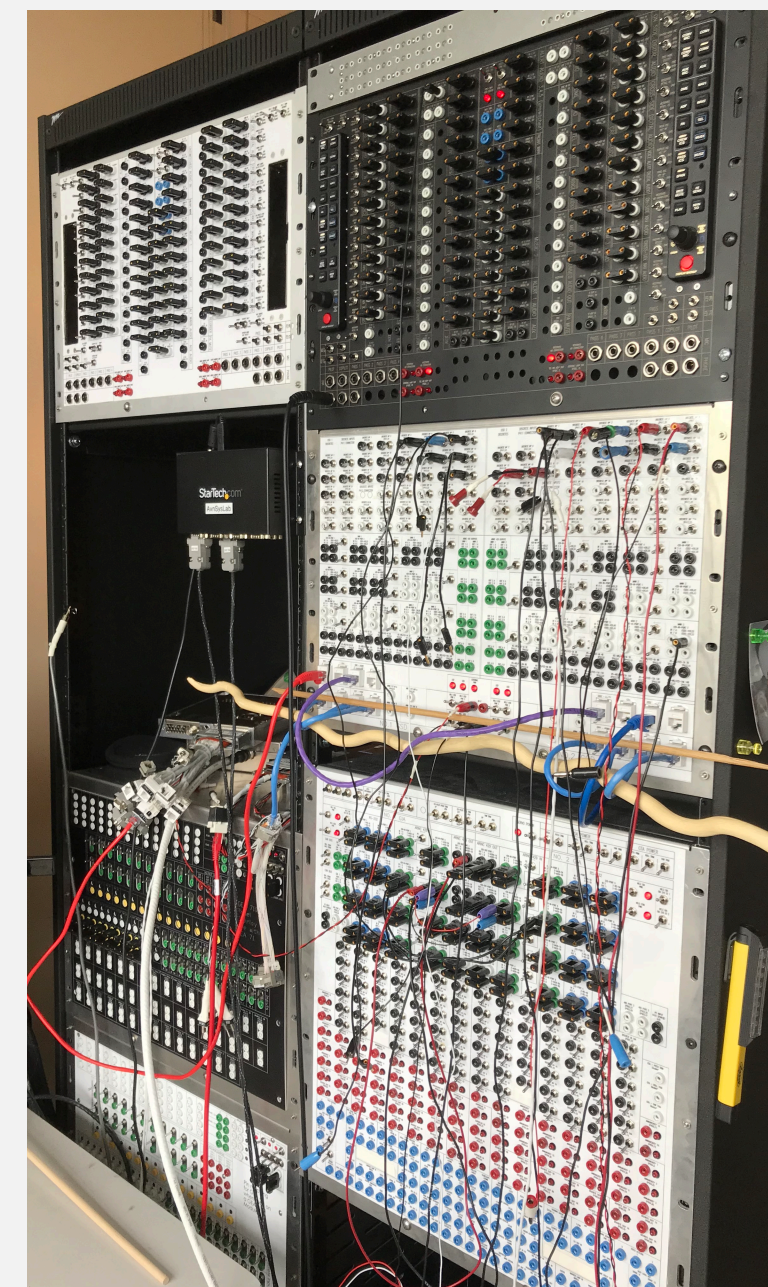
What did I do?

For my STEP Signature Project, I was a Software Engineer Intern at Garmin International in **Olathe, Kansas**. During my twelve-week internship from **May to August of 2018**, I primarily wrote unit tests to help gain FAA certification for a new piece of **classified** avionics software. On top of this, I also completed other daily tasks of a software engineer, including writing code to enhance features for future software releases, logging completed work, and providing project updates at weekly status meetings.

More specifically, my daily tasks included writing test cases in C for the hundreds of source files for the project. I also got to test code directly on hardware and conduct system-level testing on their massive flight decks.



Some examples of the hardware I was able to work on



We're not in Ohio anymore...



Why did I select this project?

After college, I would like to work for a major tech company in some sort of software engineering role. Therefore, I wanted to be able to get some internship experience in order to see exactly what the daily tasks of a software engineer are like. **Writing software in industry is very different than coursework**, so I wanted to be able to take my experience from the summer to help me in later classes.

Additionally, I have never lived outside of Ohio, so I thought that moving to the Kansas City area for the summer would be a great personal learning experience. I felt that a **new city with an up-and-coming tech scene** would be a great place to form a professional network.



I'm glad the software I was writing wasn't in the plane when I flew! (Somewhat kidding...)

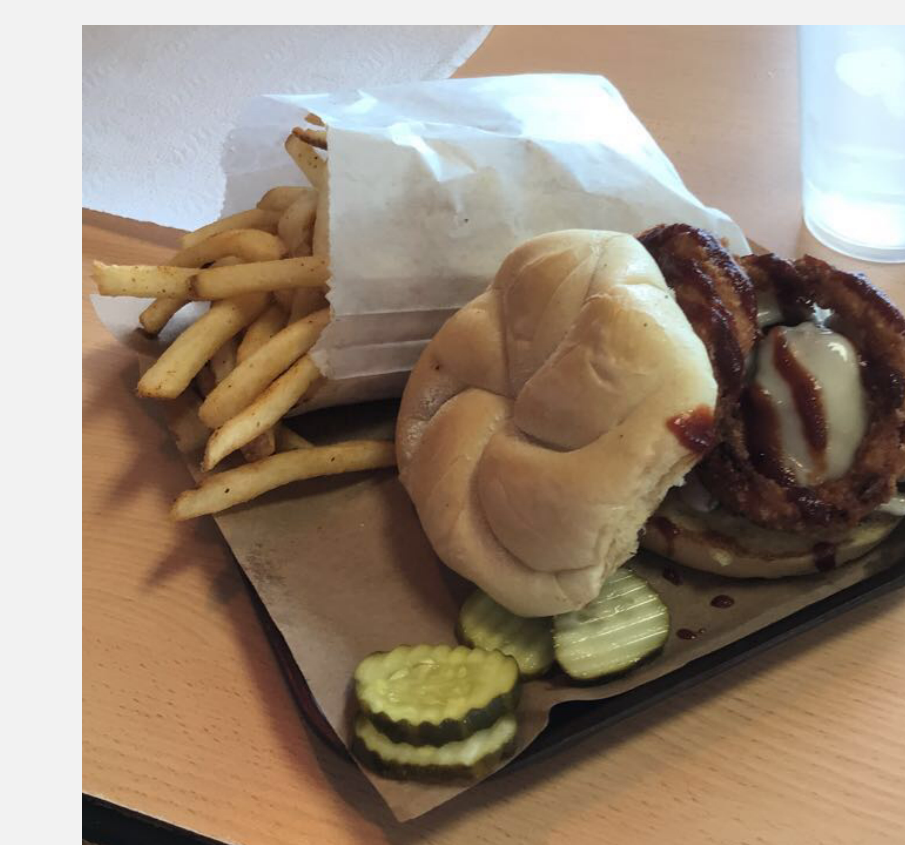
How was my internship transformative?

This experience gave me great insight into the daily life of a software engineer at a large tech company. **Software engineering is not just hundreds of engineers furiously typing code while isolated in their own cubicles**. I was frequently talking with other engineers about their code, attending meetings to gauge project progress, and having a lot of fun by testing out the code at Garmin on physical products.

On top of this, **I learned how to really live on my own and thrive in an area where I knew next to nobody**. With hundreds of students from my high school and tens of thousands of students in general, I know people at Ohio State pretty much wherever I am. This was not the case this summer. I essentially moved across the country, knowing nobody except for a few names that I recognized. Despite this, I learned how willing other interns/coworkers are to get to know and hang out with each other.

Highlights of the Summer:

- Getting to fly copilot in a six-seater Beechcraft Baron
- Touring the Garmin hangar
- Attending the end-of-summer intern event at the College Basketball Experience in downtown KC
- Watching the Royals play the Indians in Kauffman Stadium
- Weekly games of ultimate frisbee and basketball
- Eating way too much barbecue at KC Joes



The Z-Man Sandwich from KC Joes: brisket, provolone cheese, onion rings, pickles, and barbecue sauce

Want to have this same awesome experience?
Apply ASAP to Garmin here!



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Second-year Transformational Experience Program